

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

---



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

---

***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessandra P. Serano (619) 557-7084***

---

***For Immediate Release***

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 15, 2007**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Joseph D. Appierto was sentenced today in U.S. District Court by the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan to serve 57 months in custody and 3 years of supervised release based upon his guilty plea to an Information charging him with one count of possession of child pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B).

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessandra P. Serano, who prosecuted the case, Appierto previously admitted that on or about August 7, 2006, he possessed at least one video on his computer which contained images of minors, as young as four or five years old, engaging in sexually explicit conduct with adults. In sentencing Appierto, Judge Whelan also took into consideration that at the time of arrest Appierto had more than 300 additional images that contained child pornography on his computer. Appierto was apprehended as part of a nationwide investigation of child pornography purchasers.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims of the exploitation. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

**DEFENDANT**

**Case Number: 06cr2381W**

JOSEPH D. APPIERTO

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section and 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)

**AGENCY**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement